

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 5-8 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 5 and 8 have been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Cabrera et al. (U.S. Patent 6,123,359, herein "Cabrera"); Claims 1 and 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Cabrera in view of Katsuda et al. (U.S. Patent 6,116,643, herein "Katsuda"); and Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Cabrera in view of Katsuda and further in view of Osborne et al. (U.S. Patent 5,531,474, herein "Osborne").

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended, and find support at page 8, lines 2-12 of the specification, Claim 5, and Figure 1, for example. Claim 5 has been amended for clarification. No new matter is added.

Amended Claim 8 of the present application is directed to a gas generator that includes, *inter alia*, a housing including an upper lid and a lower lid joined together. The upper lid has a bowl shape and provided with gas discharge holes. The lower lid has a bowl shape and includes a side cylinder portion and a bottom plate that has a thickened wall portion. The lower lid also includes an ignitor holding portion including an inner side cylindrical portion. The thickened wall portion is formed as a step portion around an outer circumference of a base portion of the inner side cylindrical portion, and the ignitor holding portion is formed integrally with the bottom plate on the thickened wall portion. Independent Claim 1 includes similar features.

In a non-limiting example, Appendix B of an enlarged view of Figure 1 illustrates an ignitor holding portion 3a formed integrally with a bottom plate 3f on a thickened wall

portion 3e formed as a step portion around an outer circumference of a base portion of an inner side cylindrical portion 3b. In contrast to amended Claims 1 and 8 of the present application, Figure 3 of Cabrera does not disclose the claimed thickened wall portion. Specifically, “the ignitor holding portion” indicated in the Office Action is not formed integrally with “a bottom plate” via a structure that corresponds to the claimed thickened wall portion formed as a step portion around an outer circumference of a base portion of the inner side cylindrical portion depicted in the Appendix B.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended Claims 1 and 8 of the present application and each of the claims depending therefrom define over Cabrera.

Further, as shown in Figures 1 and 2 of Katsuda, Katsuda also does not disclose the above claimed features. Furthermore, as shown in Figure 3 of Osborne, Osborne also does not disclose the above claimed features.

Because none of Cabrera, Katusda and Osborne discloses the claimed thickened wall portion, the combined teachings of these cited references do not render obvious the gas generator recited in amended Claims 1 and 8 of the present application.

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Consequently, in light of the above discussion, and in view of the present amendment,
Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and
an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

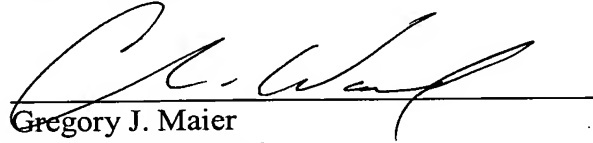
Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX B

